

Secretary's Report

For December 9-10, 2017 LNC Session

Following is a status report for minutes of LNC and EC meetings since the previous regular LNC session on August 19-20, 2017:

- August 19-20, 2017 LNC session – auto-approved on September 19, 2017
- September 21, 2017 EC teleconference – auto-approved on October 9, 2017
- November 19, 2017 EC teleconference – auto-approved on December 4, 2017

LNC membership changes since the previous regular LNC session:

- Brett Bittner resigned as Region 3 Representative effective November 30, 2017. The Region has not yet filled the vacancy.

Committee membership changes since the previous regular LNC session:

- The LNC created a Candidate Support Committee during its August 19-20, 2017 session, appointing Brett Bittner, Sam Goldstein, Larry Sharpe, Jeff Hewitt, and Caryn Ann Harlos. Two additional non-LNC members were to be appointed by the LNC Chair. During the week of November 9, 2017, he appointed Jim Turney (FL) and Mark Miller (TX) to the remaining seats.
- On September 29, 2017 the Secretary received notification that the LSLA appointees to the Affiliate Support Committee had been changed, with Susan Hogarth and Tom Arnold replacing Michael Pickens and George Phillies.
- BetteRose Ryan resigned from the Convention Oversight Committee in October. Mr. Sarwark designated Daniel Hayes as the new committee chair and on November 15, 2017 appointed Drew Layda as the seventh member of the committee.
- When Brett Bittner resigned from the LNC, it created vacancies on the Advertising & Publications Review Committee, on the Candidate Support Committee, on the Employment Policy & Compensation Committee, and on the Social Media Process Review Committee.

Other tasks I have completed include:

- Notified the applicants Credentials Committee of the results of the LNC appointments.
- Contacted all states eligible to make appointments to the remaining positions on the Credentials Committee to notify them of their eligibility and the appointment deadline.
- Provided staff an article for LPNews summarizing the August LNC meeting.
- Updated the Policy Manual for the change adopted during the August LNC meeting.

Per LP Bylaws Article 10.4.a, December 31, 2017 is the date on which sustaining memberships will be counted for determining the final delegate allocation component for the 2018 national convention. The component based on the 2016 Presidential vote total has already been determined and distributed. Once the sustaining membership component has been determined, the final delegate allocations will be distributed by January 31, 2017.

The following 4 email ballots were completed since the August 19-20, 2017 LNC session:

Motion 2017-17: The Chair is authorized by the LNC to sign the following petition on behalf of the LNC: <https://foreignpolicyalliance.org/a-call-to-reform-u-s-foreign-policy/resolution/>

(the text of the resolution reads as follows)

A Call to Reform U. S. Foreign Policy

1. Whereas, American military personnel are being killed and wounded, and civilian casualties inflicted, in wars fought for purposes unrelated to America's vital security interests, which the U.S. Government defines too broadly;
2. Whereas, America's military interventions in other countries have led to costly blowback and unintended consequences;
3. Whereas, outdated Cold War alliances create tripwires that could compel the use of U.S. military force to resolve conflicts;
4. Whereas, escalating tensions between the U.S. and other nuclear powers are moving our nations toward military confrontation and potential nuclear war;
5. Whereas, erosion of civil liberties long held dear by Americans, including freedom from warrantless surveillance, searches and seizures, has accelerated with passage of the USA Patriot Act in 2001, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, and the USA Freedom Act of 2015;
6. Whereas, in a post-Cold War era, the U.S. can safely reduce its security budget by developing a new and more relevant strategy for right-sizing the military to better deal with 21st century security needs; and
7. Whereas, a healthy U.S. economy is critical to an effective security program but is now put at risk by the trillion dollar annual national security budget that contributes to an \$18 trillion plus national debt;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Government of the United States should immediately begin a transition to a foreign policy that includes:

1. Rejecting the role of "policeman of the world," ceasing military and covert intervention in the affairs of foreign countries, and using military force only when absolutely necessary to protect U.S. sovereignty, territory, and vital interests, narrowly defined;
2. Substantially reducing the more than 700 U.S. military installations around the world;
3. Curtailing the bloated military budget, allowing resources to be redirected towards cutting the deficit, cutting taxes, investing in America, or any other use as Americans see fit;
4. Reducing the size of the U.S. nuclear arsenal to a minimum deterrent level, and fully supporting the implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
5. Emphasizing diplomacy, law, and cooperation in international relations and dispute resolution;
6. Upholding civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution; and
7. Reining in executive military action, recognizing that war powers reside solely in the legislative branch.

Sponsors: Vohra, Bittner, Harlos, Demarest, Bilyeu

Started: 08/24/17

Ended: 09/03/17

Voting "aye": Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Harlos, Hayes, Hewitt, Katz, Lark, Marsh, McKnight, Redpath, Starchild, Vohra

Voting “nay”: (none)

With a final vote tally of 14-0, the motion PASSES, having achieved the $\frac{3}{4}$ vote (with previous notice) required by LP Bylaws Article 7.11 to adopt public policy resolutions.

Motion 2017-18: The Chair is authorized by the LNC to sign the following petition on behalf of the LNC:

Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases
Unity Statement

We, the undersigned peace, justice and environmental organizations, and individuals, endorse the following Points of Unity and commit ourselves to working together by forming a Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases, with the goal of raising public awareness and organizing non-violent mass resistance against U.S. foreign military bases.

While we may have our differences on other issues, we all agree that U.S. foreign military bases are the principal instruments of imperial global domination and environmental damage through wars of aggression and occupation, and that the closure of U.S. foreign military bases is one of the first necessary steps toward a just, peaceful and sustainable world. Our belief in the urgency of this necessary step is based on the following facts:

1. While we are opposed to all foreign military bases, we do recognize that the United States maintains the highest number of military bases outside its territory, estimated at almost 1000 (95% of all foreign military bases in the world). Presently, there are U.S. military bases in every Persian Gulf country except Iran.
2. In addition, the United States has 19 Naval air carriers (and 15 more planned), each as part of a Carrier Strike Group, composed of roughly 7,500 personnel, and a carrier air wing of 65 to 70 aircraft — each of which can be considered a floating military base.
3. These bases are centers of aggressive military actions, threats of political and economic expansion, sabotage and espionage, and crimes against local populations. In addition, these military bases are the largest users of fossil fuel in the world, heavily contributing to environmental degradation.
4. The annual cost of these bases to the American taxpayers is approximately \$156 billion. The support of U.S. foreign military bases drains funds that can be used to fund human needs and enable our cities and States to provide necessary services for the people.
5. This has made the U.S. a more militarized society and has led to increased tensions between the U.S. and the rest of the world. Stationed throughout the world, almost 1000 in number, U.S. foreign military bases are symbols of the ability of the United States to intrude in the lives of sovereign nations and peoples.
6. Many individual national coalitions — for example, Okinawa, Italy, Jeju Island Korea, Diego Garcia, Cyprus, Greece, and Germany — are demanding closure of bases on their territory. The base that the U.S. has illegally occupied the longest, for over a century, is Guantánamo Bay, whose existence constitutes an imposition of the empire and a violation of International Law. Since 1959 the government and people of Cuba have demanded that the government of the U.S. return the Guantánamo territory to Cuba.

U.S. foreign military bases are NOT in defense of U.S. national, or global security. They are the military expression of U.S. intrusion in the lives of sovereign countries on behalf of the dominant financial, political, and military interests of the ruling elite. Whether invited in or not by domestic interests that have agreed to be junior partners, no country, no peoples, no government, can claim to be able to make decisions totally in the interest of their people, with foreign troops on their soil representing interests antagonistic to the national purpose.

We must all unite to actively oppose the existence of U.S. foreign military bases and call for their immediate closure. We invite all forces of peace, social and environmental justice to join us in our renewed effort to achieve this shared goal.

-----END OF RESOLUTION TEXT-----

Sponsors: Vohra, Bittner, Harlos, Demarest

Started: 08/28/17

Ended: 09/07/17

Voting “aye”: (none)

Voting “nay”: Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Katz, Lark, Mattson, McKnight, Redpath, Starchild, Vohra

With a final vote tally of 0-14, the motion FAILS to achieve the $\frac{3}{4}$ vote (with previous notice) required by LP Bylaws Article 7.11 to adopt public policy resolutions.

Motion 2017-19: That the LNC adopt the following resolution:

A Call to End the U.S. War in Yemen and Support House Concurrent Resolution 81

Directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from unauthorized hostilities in the Republic of Yemen.

Resolved by the Libertarian National Committee (LNC)

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.

(a) Findings —The Libertarian National Committee agrees with Congress and finds the following:

(1) Whereas, Congress has the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

(2) Whereas, a state of war has not been declared to exist with respect to the conflict between forces led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates against the Houthi-Saleh alliance in the Republic of Yemen.

(3) Whereas, United States Armed Forces have been involved in hostilities between Saudi-led forces and the Houthi-Saleh alliance, including through assisting Saudi and United Arab Emirates warplanes conducting aerial bombings in Yemen with selecting targets and by providing midair refueling services to such warplanes, amounting to millions of pounds of jet fuel delivered during thousands of Saudi and United Arab Emirates airstrikes.

(4) Whereas, according to the Department of State’s Country Reports on Terrorism 2016, the conflict between Saudi-led forces and the Houthi-Saleh alliance is counterproductive to ongoing efforts by the United States to pursue Al Qaeda and its associated forces under the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (Public Law 107–40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

(5) Whereas, no authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces with respect to the conflict between Saudi-led forces and the Houthi-Saleh alliance in Yemen has been enacted, and no provision of law authorizes the provision of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict.

(6) Whereas, the conflict between Saudi-led forces and the Houthi-Saleh alliance in Yemen constitutes, within the meaning of section 4(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)(1)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.

Therefore, be it resolved, the LNC supports H.Con.Res. 81 in accordance with section 3.3 of the Libertarian Party Platform, but advises complete removal of U.S. Armed Forces from the Republic of Yemen:

(b) Removal Of Armed Forces.—Pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)), Congress hereby directs the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula or associated forces, by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the adoption of this concurrent resolution (unless the President requests and the Congress authorizes a later date), and unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted.

-----END OF RESOLUTION TEXT-----

Sponsor: Sarwark

Started: 10/21/17

Ended: 10/31/17

Voting “aye”: Demarest, Hewitt, Marsh, McKnight, Moellman, Sarwark, Starchild

Voting “nay”: Bilyeu, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Katz, Lark, Mattson

Express abstention: Hayes, Redpath

With a final vote tally of 7-7, the motion FAILS to achieve the $\frac{3}{4}$ vote (with previous notice) required by LP Bylaws Article 7.11 to adopt public policy resolutions.

Motion 2017-20: to increase the budgets for both Line 26-Brand Development/Political Materials Revenue and Line 55-Brand Development/Political Materials Expenses from \$60,000 each to \$80,000 each

Sponsors: Hagan, Hayes, Harlos, Goldstein

Started: 11/04/17

Ended: 11/14/17

Voting “aye”: Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Katz, Marsh, McKnight

Voting “nay”: (none)

Express abstention: Lark

Doubtful vote: Redpath (voted “indubitably”)

With a final vote tally of 10-0, the motion PASSES.

Alicia Mattson
LNC Secretary